



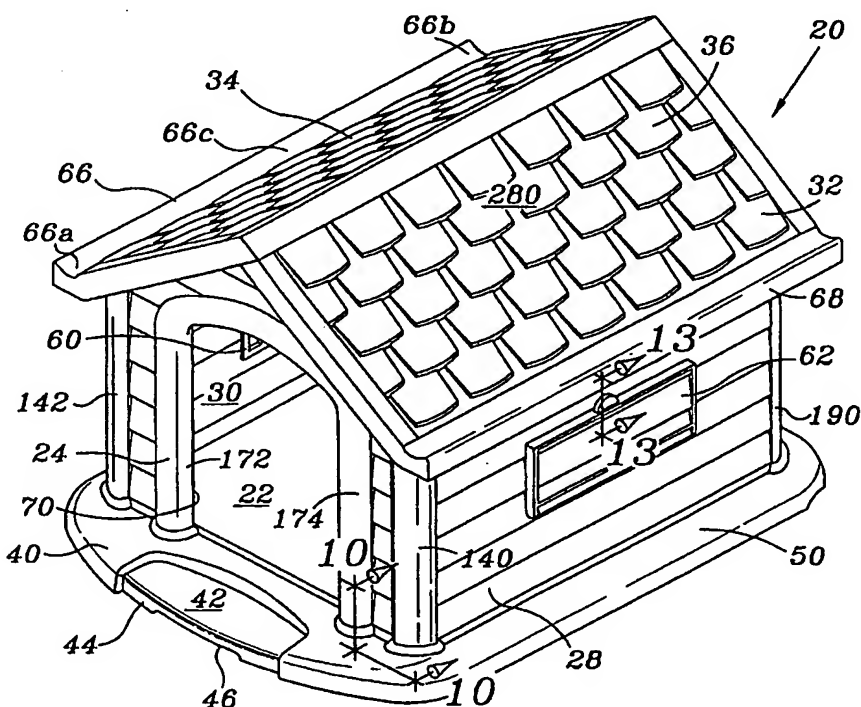
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(54) Title: PET SHELTER

(57) Abstract

A pet shelter includes a base (22), a front wall (24), a rear wall (26), side walls (30), and a roof (32). The base includes a groove (200) having apertures (202) which receive mounting tabs extending from the bottom of the walls. The bottom surface of the roof includes mounting tabs for engaging apertures contained in the top of the side walls. The groove also receives the bottom of the walls. The walls each include curvilinear portions (106-116) at their sides which overlap and which are engaged in curvilinear portions of the groove to provide structural support for the walls (24). The bottom of the roof also includes grooves for engaging the front and rear walls to provide further interconnection between the roof and walls. The shelter further includes drainage features including gutters (66, 68), a base skirt, and drainage apertures in the groove. A handle and wheels are provided in the base for ease in movement of the shelter. Additionally, a window and shutter are provided in the side walls.



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PET SHELTER

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to pet shelters, and more particularly to a knock-down dog house having improve structural qualities.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Pet shelters, such as, for example, dog houses, may be fabricated using numerous components for ease in shipment and storage. As a result, assembly and disassembly of a dog house is required to be performed by the purchaser rather than the manufacturer, and it is essential that assembly be easy, fast and require a minimal of technical experience. Since
10 the dog house is fabricated from several pieces, the structural integrity of the assembled dog house is a concern since multiple connections between pieces result which may not be mechanically secured had the dog house been manufactured using fewer pieces and fabricated with integral joints, glue, or mechanical fasteners.

A need has thus arisen for a pet shelter that is easy to assemble from multiple
15 components and which results in a structurally sound assembly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a pet shelter includes a base, a front wall, a rear wall, side walls, and a roof. The base includes a groove having apertures which receive mounting tabs extending from the bottom of the walls. The bottom surface of the
20 roof includes mounting tabs for engaging apertures contained in the top of the side walls. The groove also receives the bottom of the walls. The walls each include curvilinear portions at their sides which overlap and which are engaged in curvilinear portions of the groove to provide structural support for the walls. The bottom of the roof also includes grooves for engaging the front and rear walls to provide further interconnection between the
25 roof and walls. The shelter further includes drainage features including gutters, a base skirt, and drainage apertures in the groove. A handle and wheels are provided in the base for ease in movement of the shelter. Additionally, a window and shutter are provided in the side walls.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present invention and for further advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings in which:

- 5 FIGs. 1 and 2 are perspective views of the present pet shelter illustrating the front and rear walls, respectively;
- FIG. 3 is a plan view of the top surface of the present base;
- FIG. 4 is a plan view of the bottom surface of the present base;
- FIG. 5 is an elevational view of the front wall of the present shelter;
- 10 FIG. 5a is a top plan view of the front wall of the present shelter shown in FIG. 5;
- FIG. 6 is an elevational view of the rear wall of the present shelter;
- FIGs. 7 and 8 are an elevational views of the side walls of the present shelter;
- FIG. 7a is a top plan view of the side walls of the present shelter shown in FIGs. 7 and 8;
- 15 FIG. 9 is an enlarged sectional view taken generally along sectional lines 9-9 of FIG. 2 illustrating a corner connection of a side and rear walls of the present shelter;
- FIG. 10 is an enlarged sectional view taken generally along sectional lines 10-10 of FIG. 1 illustrating the connection between the present side walls and base;
- FIG. 11 is a plan view of the bottom surface of the present roof;
- 20 FIG. 12 is an enlarged sectional view taken generally along sectional lines 12-12 of FIG. 2 illustrating the connection between the present roof and a side wall; and
- FIG. 13 is an enlarged sectional view taken generally along sectional lines 13-13 of FIG. 1 illustrating the present shutter lock.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- 25 Referring simultaneously to FIGs. 1 and 2, the present pet shelter is illustrated, and is generally identified by the numeral 20. Pet shelter 20 includes a base 22, front wall 24, rear wall 26, a side wall 28, a side wall 30, and a roof 32. Walls 24, 26, 28 and 30 are easily and quickly assembled into base 22. Roof 32 is composed of roof sections 34 and 36 which are easily assembled to walls 24, 26, 28, and 30. Pet shelter 20 may be shipped and stored

easily since each of the components, prior to assembly, can be stored flat, and in a compact area. Pet shelter 20 can be sold as a "kit" having base 22, walls 24, 26, 28, and 30, and roof sections 34 and 36 for quick and easy assembly by a purchaser without the need for many tools.

5 Base 22 includes a front "porch" 40 having a recessed area 42 for the collection of rain water that may fall from roof 32. Recess 42 prevents rain water from entering shelter 20 through front wall 24. Additionally, porch 40 includes a handle 44 for lifting shelter 20. Handle 44 is formed from the reduced thickness in base 22 in area 46. Base 22 further includes a skirt 50 which extends adjacent to walls 24, 26, 28 and 30 for preventing rain
10 water and dirt from entering shelter 20 under walls 24, 26, 28, and 30. As illustrated in FIG. 2, base 22 further includes wheels 52 mounted below wall 26 and within skirt 50. Wheels 52 allow for easy movement of shelter 20, such that the user can grasp handle 44, lift shelter 20, support shelter 20 on wheels 52 and move shelter 20 through rotation of wheels 52.

 Side walls 26 and 28 each include a window 60. Window 60 includes a shutter 62
15 which is pivotally mounted to walls 26 and 28 to move from an open position as shown in FIG. 2 to a closed position as shown in FIG. 1. Rear wall 26 includes a vent 64.

 Roof 32 includes gutters 66 and 68 for diverting rain water from roof 32. Gutter 66 includes ends 66a and 66b. Gutter 68 includes ends 68a and 68b. A central region 66c and 68c of gutters 66 and 68 is fabricated at a higher point from base 22 than ends 66a and 66b;
20 and ends 68a and 68b, respectively. In this manner, rain water falling on roof 32 is routed to both ends of shelter 20.

 Front wall 24 of shelter 20 includes a doorway 70. Doorway 70 allows for entry and exit of a pet into shelter 20. Doorway 70 may be equipped with a door (not shown) such as, for example, a door flap which is mounted to front wall 24 or a wire grate door hinged to
25 both sides of doorway 70 on front wall 24.

 Referring now to FIGs. 3 and 4, base 22 is illustrated. Base 22 includes a top surface 80 (FIG. 3) and a bottom surface 82 (FIG. 4). Base 22 includes a front end 84, back end 86, a first side 88, and a second side 90. Disposed on top surface 80 of base 22 and adjacent to ends 84 and 86 and sides 88 and 90 is a channel or groove 100. Groove 100
30 includes a plurality of spaced apart slotted apertures 102 with reduced areas 102a which extend through base member 22, and are used for mounting walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 to base

member 22 as will subsequently be explained. Groove 100 further includes curvilinear portions 106, 108, 110, and 112 adjacent front end 84. Groove 100 further includes curvilinear portions 114 and 116 adjacent back end 86. Curvilinear portions 106-116 further function to mount walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 to base 22 as will be subsequently be described. Groove 100 further includes a plurality of apertures 120 which function as drains for channeling rain water which enters groove 100 to drain to a location under base 22.

As more clearly illustrated in FIG. 4, base 22 further includes a handle barrier 126 which divides the handle 44 from the remainder of the area under base 22. Barrier 126 isolates the fingers of a user when grasping handle 44 from any animals which may have taken residence under base 22, and functions as a "snake guard".

Referring now to FIGs. 5 and 5a, front wall 24 includes a top 132, a bottom 134, and sides 136 and 138. Sides 136 and 138 include curvilinear portions 140 and 142. Bottom 134 of front wall 24 includes tabs 152 and 154 each having a locking member 156. When assembled, front wall 24 is positioned adjacent front end 84 of base 22 such that tabs 152 and 154 are inserted into apertures 102 adjacent to front end 84 of base 22. Locking members 156 engage apertures 102 to thereby lock front wall 24 to base 22. Curvilinear portions 140 and 142 engage curvilinear portions 106 and 110 of groove 100 to provide additional structural support for front wall 24. Additionally, doorway 70 includes an arch 170 having curvilinear ends 172 and 174 which engage curvilinear portions 108 and 112 of groove 100 to provide additional structural support for front wall 24 when mounted to base 22.

Referring now to FIG. 6, rear wall 26 includes a top 180, a bottom 182, and sides 184 and 186. Sides 184 and 186 include curvilinear portions 188 and 190. Bottom 182 of rear wall 26 includes tabs 192 and 194, each including a locking member 156. Tabs 192 and 194 engage apertures 102 adjacent to back end 86 of base 22 to mount rear wall 26 to base 22. Additionally, curvilinear portions 188 and 190 interlock to curvilinear portions 114 and 116, respectively of groove 100 to provide additional structural support for rear wall 26.

Referring now to FIGs. 7 and 7a, side wall 28 is illustrated. Side wall 28 includes a top 210, a bottom 212, and sides 214 and 216. Sides 214 and 216 include a curvilinear portion 218 and 220, respectively. Bottom 212 of sidewall 28 includes mounting tabs 222, 224, and 226 each including a locking member 156. Tabs 222, 224, and 226 engage

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apertures 102 adjacent to side 88 of base 22 when side wall 28 is assembled to base 22.

Locking members 156 engage apertures 102 of base 22. To provide additional structural support for side wall 28, curvilinear portions 218 and 220 engage curvilinear portions 106 and 114, respectively, of groove 100. Top 210 of side wall 28 includes ventilation apertures 230 and 232 and slots 234 and 236 which are used for mounting roof 32 to side wall 28, as will subsequently be described.

Referring now to FIG. 8, side wall 30 is similarly configured to side wall 28. Side wall 30 has a top 240, a bottom 242, and sides 244 and 246. Sides 244 and 246 include a curvilinear portion 248 and 250, respectively. Bottom 242 includes mounting tabs 252, 254 and 256, each having a locking member 156 for mounting side wall 30 to side 90 of base 22 through apertures 102 of groove 100. Tabs 252, 254, and 256 mount side wall 30 to base 22. Additional mounting structural support is provided through curvilinear portions 248 and 250 which engage curvilinear portions 110 and 116 of groove 100 in base 22. Side wall 30 further includes ventilation apertures 260 and 262 and slots 264 and 266 for mounting roof 32 to side wall 30, as will subsequently be described.

Referring now to FIG. 9, an important aspect of the present invention is illustrated. FIG. 9 illustrates curvilinear portion 114 of groove 100 and the mounting of rear wall 26 and side wall 28 to groove 100. Curvilinear portions 106, 110, and 116 are similarly configured for mounting of front wall 24 and side wall 30 to base 22. An important aspect of the present invention is the wrap-around or overlap that occurs between curvilinear portions of walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 along the sides of walls 24, 26, 28 and 30 and within curvilinear portions 106, 110, 114, and 116 of groove 100. As illustrated in FIG. 9, curvilinear portion 190 of rear wall 26 overlaps curvilinear portion 218 of side wall 28. Both curvilinear portions 190 and 218 are contained within curvilinear portion 114 of groove 100. This overlap feature of the present invention provides an interlock and structural enhancements at the four corners of shelter 20, such that in addition to the locking of walls 24, 26, 28 and 30 to base 22, walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 are interlocked along their height between base 22 and roof 32 to provide additional structural support for shelter 20. Each of the four corners of shelter 20 has an overlap of curvilinear portions of walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 which further engage a curvilinear portion 106, 110, 114, or 116 of groove 100 in the overlapped configuration as illustrated in FIG. 9. In assembly of walls 24, 26, 28, and 30 to base 22, side

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walls 28 and 30 are initially mounted to base 22. Subsequently, front wall 24 is mounted such that curvilinear portions 140 and 142 overlap curvilinear portions 220 and 248 of side walls 28 and 30, respectively. Rear wall 30 is then installed to base 22 such that curvilinear portions 188 and 190 overlap curvilinear portions 250 and 218 of side walls 30 and 28, respectively.

FIG. 10 illustrates an enlarged sectional view of mounting tab 194 engaging an aperture 120 in groove 100 of base 22 such that locking member 156 engages a reduced area 120a of aperture 120. All other wall mounting tabs are similarly connected to apertures 120 of base 22.

Referring to FIGs. 11 and 12, roof 32 is illustrated. Roof 32 includes a top surface 280, a bottom surface 282, a front end 290, back end 292 and sides 300 and 302. Sides 300 and 302 include gutters 66 and 68, respectively. Roof sections 34 and 36 are interconnected by screws (not shown) on bottom surface 282 at the apex 32a of roof 32. Extending from bottom surface 282 of roof 32 are mounting tabs 304 and 306 having a locking member 308 for engaging slots 264 and 266, respectively, on side wall 30. Also extending from bottom surface 282 of roof 32 are mounting tabs 310 and 312 having a locking member 308 for engaging slots 236 and 234, respectively, on side wall 28.

Bottom surface 282 of roof 32 further includes a groove 314 extending along front end 290 and a groove 316 extending along back end 292. Groove 314 engages front wall 24 at its top 132. Groove 316 engages rear wall 26 along its top 180 to provide additional structural and interconnection between roof 32 and walls 24 and 26. Bottom surface 282 of roof 32 further includes curvilinear portions 320, 322, 324 and 326 which engage curvilinear portions of associated front and rear walls to provide additional structural support for side walls 22, 26, 28, and 30 as well as roof 32. For example, curvilinear portion 326 engages curvilinear portion 140 of front wall 24.

FIG. 13 illustrates a shutter 62 having a latch pin 340 for mounting shutter 62 in a closed position to side walls 28 or 30.

It therefore can be seen that the present pet shelter provides for a structurally secure shelter having interlocks between the base, walls, and roof. The present shelter is easy to assembly and disassemble requiring little mechanical expertise. Features of the

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present shelter minimize the occurrence of rain water entering the shelter. Further, the shelter is easily movable using a handle and wheels within the base.

Whereas the present invention has been described with respect to specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that various changes and modifications will be suggested to one skilled in the art and it is intended to encompass such changes and modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

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CLAIMS:

1. A pet shelter comprising:

a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and second sides;

5 a groove disposed on said top surface of said base and extending adjacent said front end, said back end, and said first and second sides of said base;

said groove including a plurality of apertures extending in said base;

a front wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said bottom
10 of said first wall being adapted to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base front end, said first wall further including an opening for allowing entry and exit of a pet into the shelter;

a rear wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said bottom
15 of said rear wall being adapted to being inserted into said base groove adjacent said base rear end;

a first side wall having a bottom, a top and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said bottom
of said first side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base first side, said first side wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top;

20 a second side wall having a bottom, top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said bottom of said second side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base second side, said second side wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top; and

25 a roof having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and second sides, said roof including a plurality of tabs disposed adjacent said first and second sides thereof and extending from said bottom surface thereof for engaging said apertures disposed adjacent said top of said first and second side walls.

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2. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said roof bottom surface includes a groove for engaging said top of said front wall and a groove for engaging said top of said rear wall.

3. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said front wall, rear wall, and side walls each include a curvilinear portion adjacent said first and second sides thereof.

4. The pet shelter of Claim 3 wherein said base groove includes a curvilinear portion for receiving said curvilinear portions of said walls.

5. The pet shelter of Claim 3 wherein said roof bottom surface includes an arcuate portion for engaging said curvilinear portions of said walls.

6. The pet shelter of Claim 3 wherein said roof bottom surface includes an arcuate portion for engaging said curvilinear portions of said walls, a groove for engaging said top of said front wall and a groove for engaging said top of said rear wall.

7. The pet shelter of Claim 3 wherein said curvilinear portions of said front wall overlap said curvilinear portions of said first sides of said first and second side walls when said front wall and said side walls are disposed in said base groove; and

5 said curvilinear portions of said rear wall overlap said curvilinear portions of said second sides of said first and second side walls when said rear wall and said side walls are disposed in said base groove.

8. The pet shelter of Claim 7 wherein said base groove includes a curvilinear portion for receiving said overlapped curvilinear portions of said walls.

9. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base includes a wheel.

10. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base includes a pair of wheels disposed adjacent said base back end.

11. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base includes a handle disposed adjacent said base front end.

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12. The pet shelter of Claim 11 wherein said handle includes means extending from said base bottom surface for providing a barrier between said handle and a surface on which said base is supported.

13. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said first side wall includes a centrally disposed aperture.

14. The pet shelter of Claim 13 and further including means disposed on said first side wall for selectively opening and closing said centrally disposed aperture.

15. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base includes a curvilinear portion extending from said top surface adjacent said ends and said sides.

16. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base groove includes drain apertures for diverting fluid from said side walls to a surface on which said base is supported.

17. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said roof includes an arcuate trough disposed adjacent said first and second sides of said roof for diverting fluid contacting said roof.

18. The pet shelter of Claim 17 wherein said trough extends along said first and second sides of said roof and between said front end and said back end of said roof, said trough having first and second ends and a central portion disposed between said first and second ends, said central portion being disposed a distance above said base which is greater than a distance
5 between each of said trough ends and said base.

19. The pet shelter of Claim 1 wherein said base front end includes means for preventing fluid from flowing into the shelter through said front wall opening.

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20. A pet shelter comprising:

a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and second sides;

5 a groove disposed on said top surface of said base and extending adjacent said front end, said back end, and said first and second sides of said base;

said groove including a plurality of apertures extending in said base and further including curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end and said base back end;

10 a front wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said front wall including a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said first wall being adapted to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base front end, such that said front wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end, said first wall further including an opening for allowing entry and exit of a pet into the shelter;

15 a rear wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said rear wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said rear wall being adapted to being inserted into said base groove adjacent said base rear end, such that said rear wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base rear end;

20 a first side wall having a bottom, a top and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said first side wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said first side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base first side, such that said first side wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end, and adjacent said base rear end, said first side wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top;

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a second side wall having a bottom, top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said second side wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of

30 said second side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base second side, such that said second side wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent base front end and adjacent said base rear end, said second side wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top; and

a roof having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and
35 second sides, said roof including a plurality of tabs disposed adjacent said first and second sides thereof and extending from said bottom surface thereof for engaging said apertures disposed adjacent said top of said first and second side walls.

21. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said roof bottom surface includes a groove for engaging said top of said front wall and a groove for engaging said top of said rear wall.

22. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said roof bottom surface includes an arcuate portion for engaging said curvilinear portions of said walls.

23. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said roof bottom surface includes an arcuate portion for engaging said curvilinear portions of said walls, a groove for engaging said top of said front wall and a groove for engaging said top of said rear wall.

24. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said curvilinear portions of said front wall overlap said curvilinear portions of said first sides of said first and second side walls when said front wall and said side walls are disposed in said base groove; and

said curvilinear portions of said rear wall overlap said curvilinear portions of said
5 second sides of said first and second side walls when said rear wall and said side walls are disposed in said base groove.

25. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base includes a wheel.

26. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base includes a pair of wheels disposed adjacent said base back end.

27. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base includes a handle disposed adjacent said base front end.

28. The pet shelter of Claim 27 wherein said handle includes means extending from said base bottom surface for providing a barrier between said handle and a surface on which said base is supported.

29. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said first side wall includes a centrally disposed aperture.

30. The pet shelter of Claim 29 and further including means disposed on said first side wall for selectively opening and closing said centrally disposed aperture.

31. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base includes a curvilinear portion extending from said top surface adjacent said ends and said sides.

32. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base groove includes drain apertures for diverting fluid from said side walls to a surface on which said base is supported.

33. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said roof includes an arcuate trough disposed adjacent said first and second sides of said roof for diverting fluid contacting said roof.

34. The pet shelter of Claim 33 wherein said trough extends along said first and second sides of said roof and between said front end and said back end of said roof, said trough having first and second ends and a central portion disposed between said first and second ends, said central portion being disposed a distance above said base which is greater than a distance
5 between each of said trough ends and said base.

35. The pet shelter of Claim 20 wherein said base front end includes means for preventing fluid from flowing into the shelter through said front wall opening.

36. A pet shelter comprising:

a base having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and second sides;

5 a groove disposed on said top surface of said base and extending adjacent said front end, said back end, and said first and second sides of said base;

said groove including a plurality of apertures extending in said base and further including curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end and said base back end;

10 a front wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said front wall including a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said first wall being adapted to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base front end, such that said front wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end, said first wall further including an opening for allowing entry and exit of a pet into the shelter;

15 a rear wall having a bottom, a top, and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said rear wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said rear wall being adapted to being inserted into said base groove adjacent said base rear end, such that said rear wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base rear end;

20 a first side wall having a bottom, a top and first and second sides, said bottom including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove, said first and second sides of said first side wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of said first side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base first side, such that said first side wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear portions adjacent said base front end, and adjacent said base rear end, said curvilinear portions of said first wall overlapping said curvilinear portions of said first sides of said first and second side walls when said front wall and side walls are disposed in said base groove, said first side wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top;

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a second side wall having a bottom, top, and first and second sides, said bottom
30 including a plurality of tabs for engaging ones of said plurality of apertures in said base groove,
said first and second sides of said second side wall include a curvilinear portion, said bottom of
said second side wall being adaptable to be inserted into said base groove adjacent said base
second side, such that said second side wall curvilinear portions engage said groove curvilinear
portions adjacent said base front end and adjacent said base rear end, said curvilinear portions
35 of said rear wall overlapping said curvilinear portions of said second sides of said first and second
side walls when said rear wall and side walls are disposed in said base groove, said second side
wall further including a plurality of apertures disposed adjacent said top;

a roof having a top surface, a bottom surface, a front end, a back end, and first and
second sides, said roof including a plurality of tabs disposed adjacent said first and second sides
40 thereof and extending from said bottom surface thereof for engaging said apertures disposed
adjacent said top of said first and second side walls; and

said roof bottom surface includes an arcuate portion for engaging said curvilinear
portions of said walls, a groove for engaging said top of said front wall and a groove for engaging
said top of said rear wall.

37. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base includes a wheel.

38. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base includes a pair of wheels disposed
adjacent said base back end.

39. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base includes a handle disposed
adjacent said base front end.

40. The pet shelter of Claim 39 wherein said handle includes means extending
from said base bottom surface for providing a barrier between said handle and a surface on
which said base is supported.

41. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said first side wall includes a centrally
disposed aperture.

42. The pet shelter of Claim 41 and further including means disposed on said first side wall for selectively opening and closing said centrally disposed aperture.

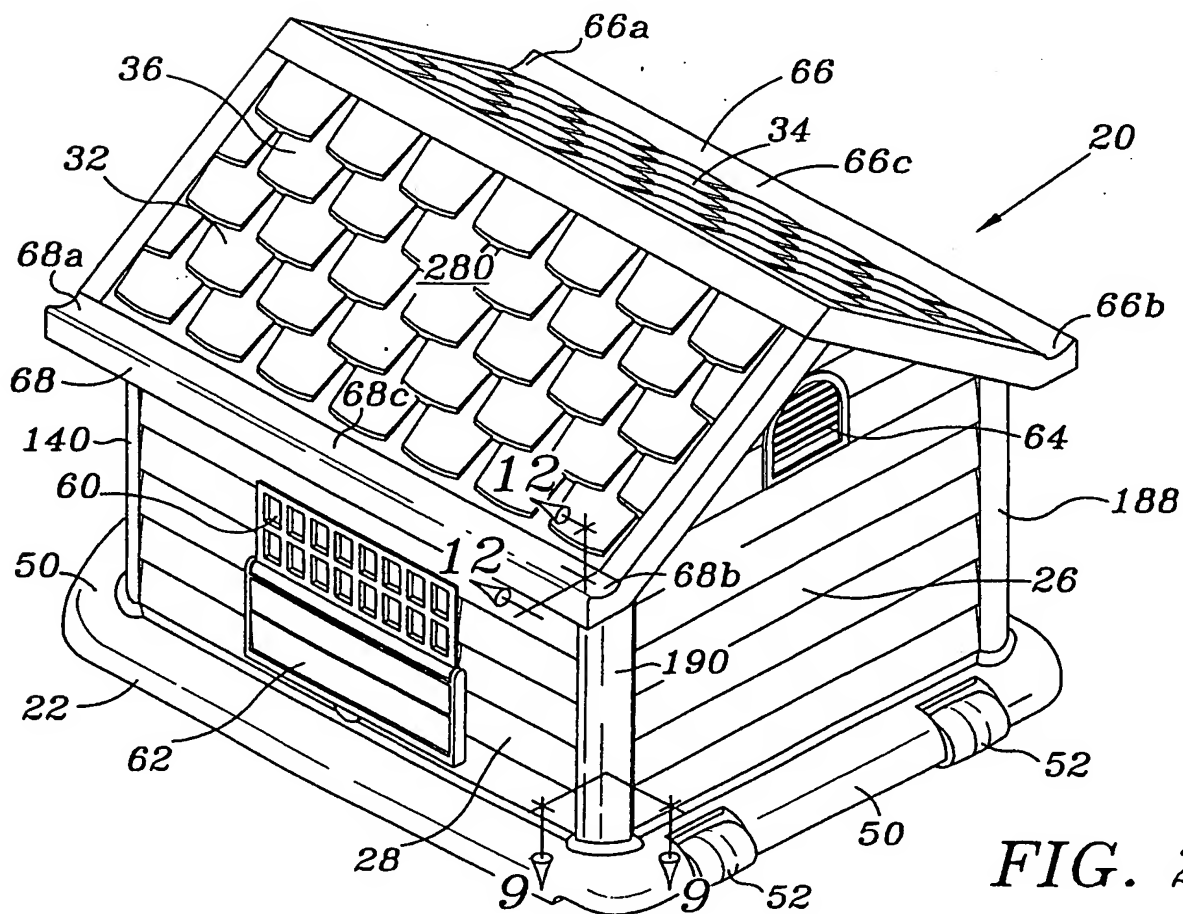
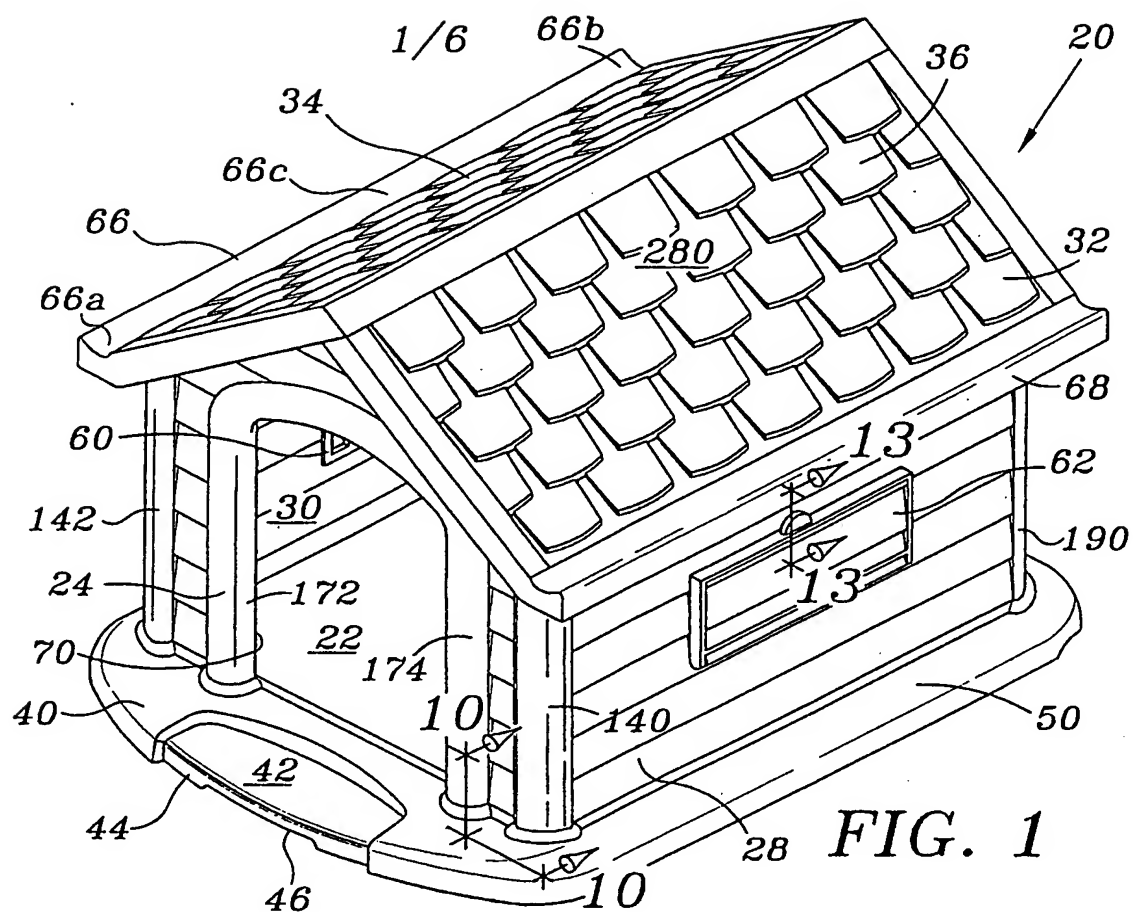
43. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base includes a curvilinear portion extending from said top surface adjacent said ends and said sides.

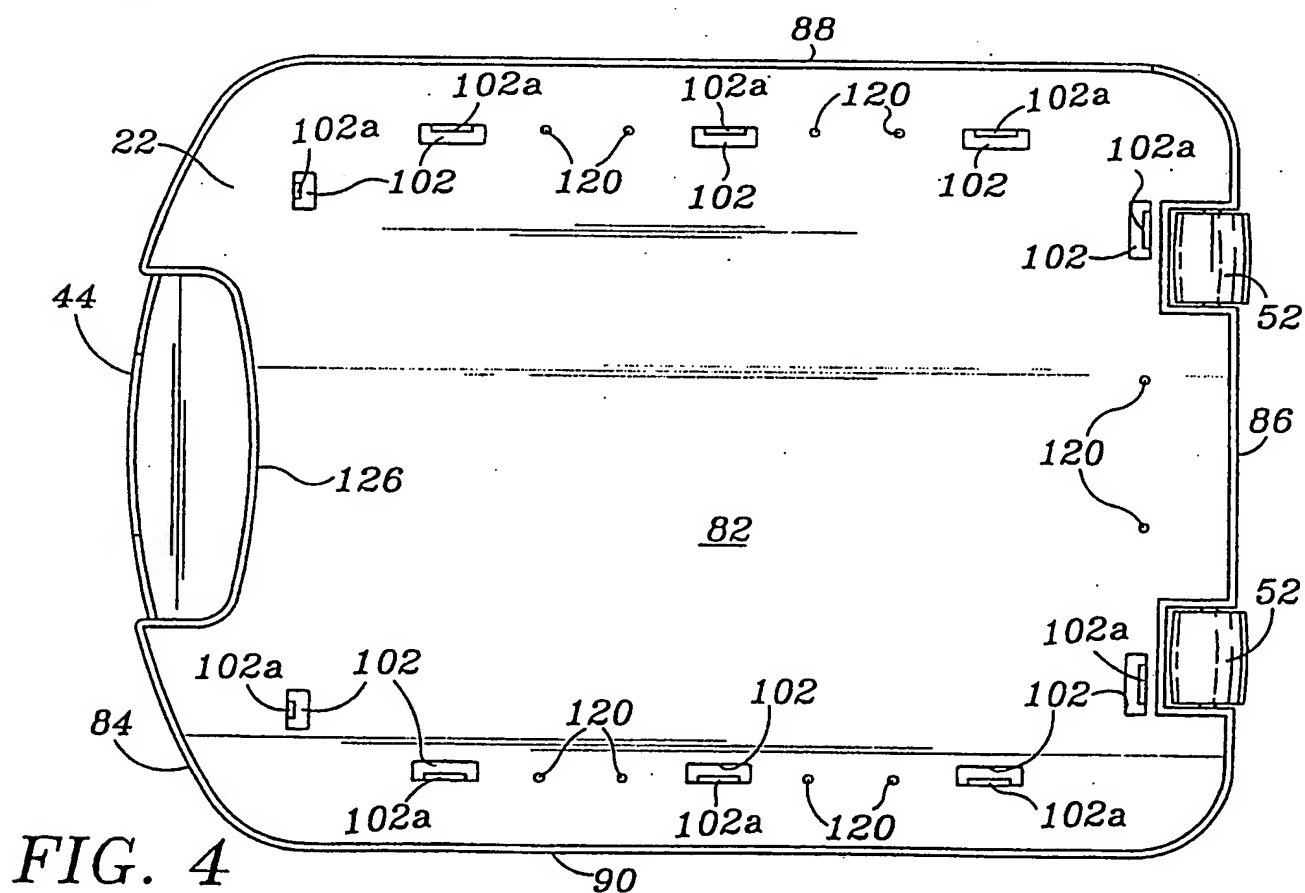
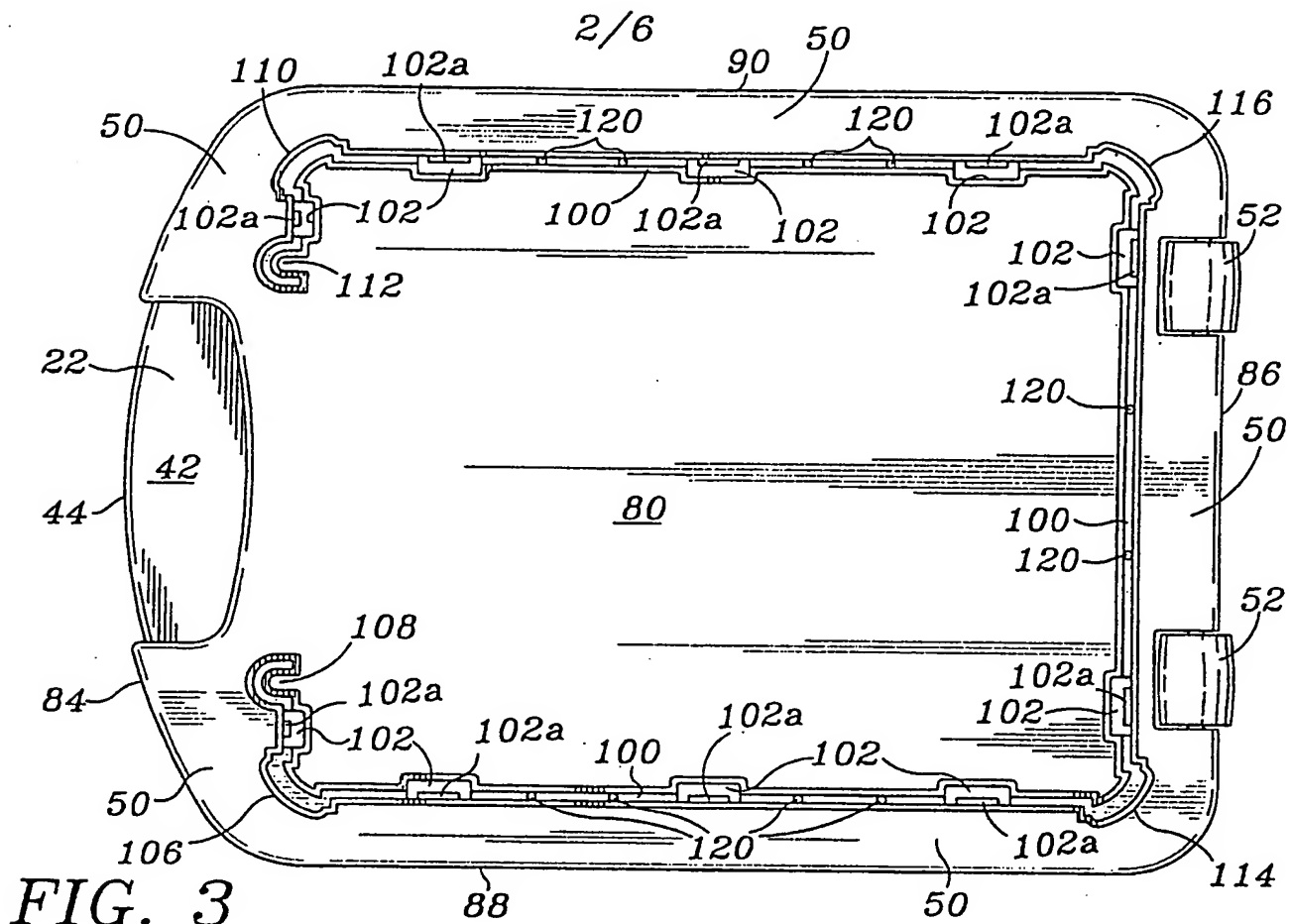
44. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base groove includes drain apertures for diverting fluid from said side walls to a surface on which said base is supported.

45. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said roof includes an arcuate trough disposed adjacent said first and second sides of said roof for diverting fluid contacting said roof.

46. The pet shelter of Claim 45 wherein said trough extends along said first and second sides of said roof and between said front end and said back end of said roof, said trough having first and second ends and a central portion disposed between said first and second ends, said central portion being disposed a distance above said base which is greater than a distance
5 between each of said trough ends and said base.

47. The pet shelter of Claim 36 wherein said base front end includes means for preventing fluid from flowing into the shelter through said front wall opening.





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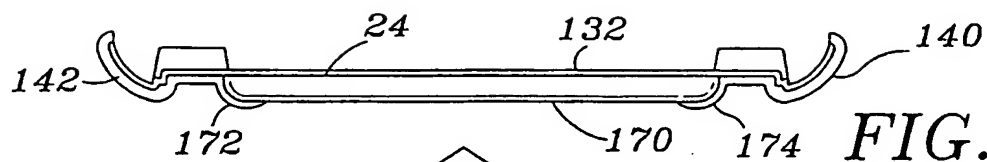


FIG. 5a

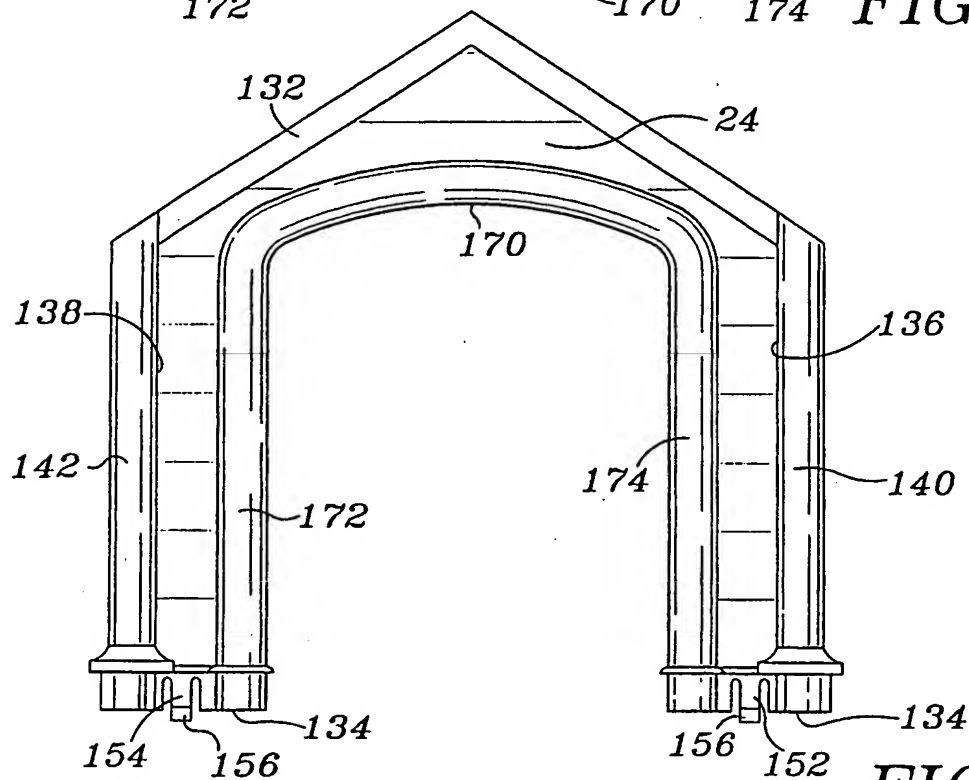


FIG. 5

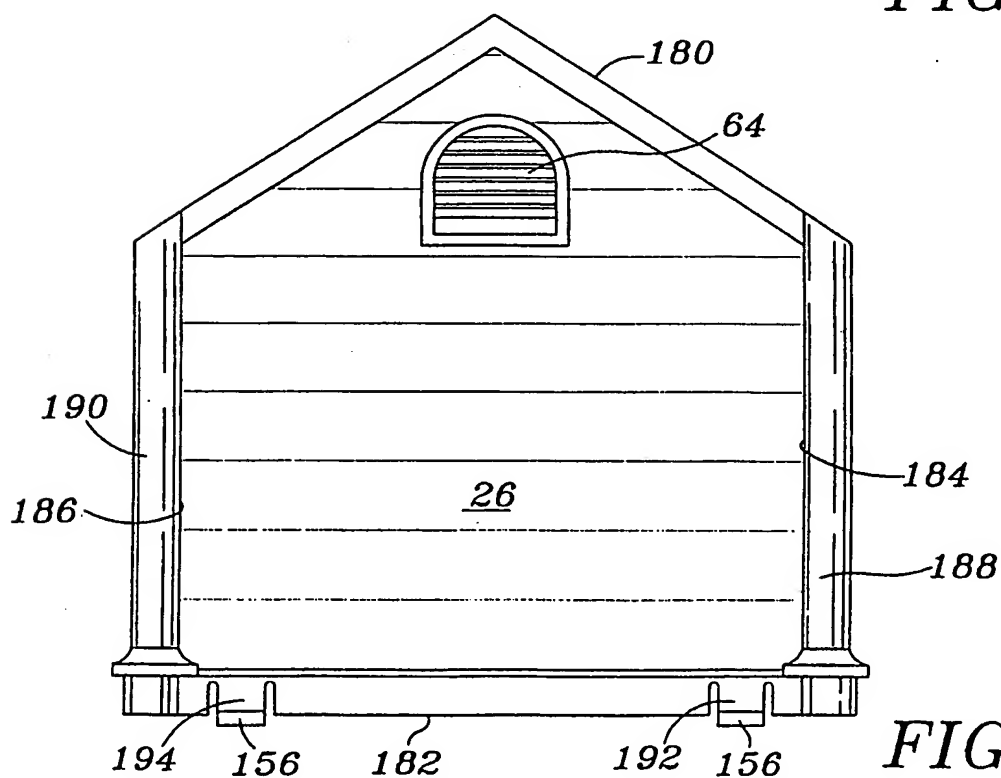


FIG. 6

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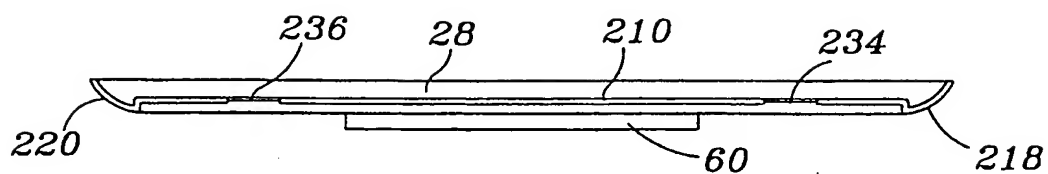


FIG. 7a

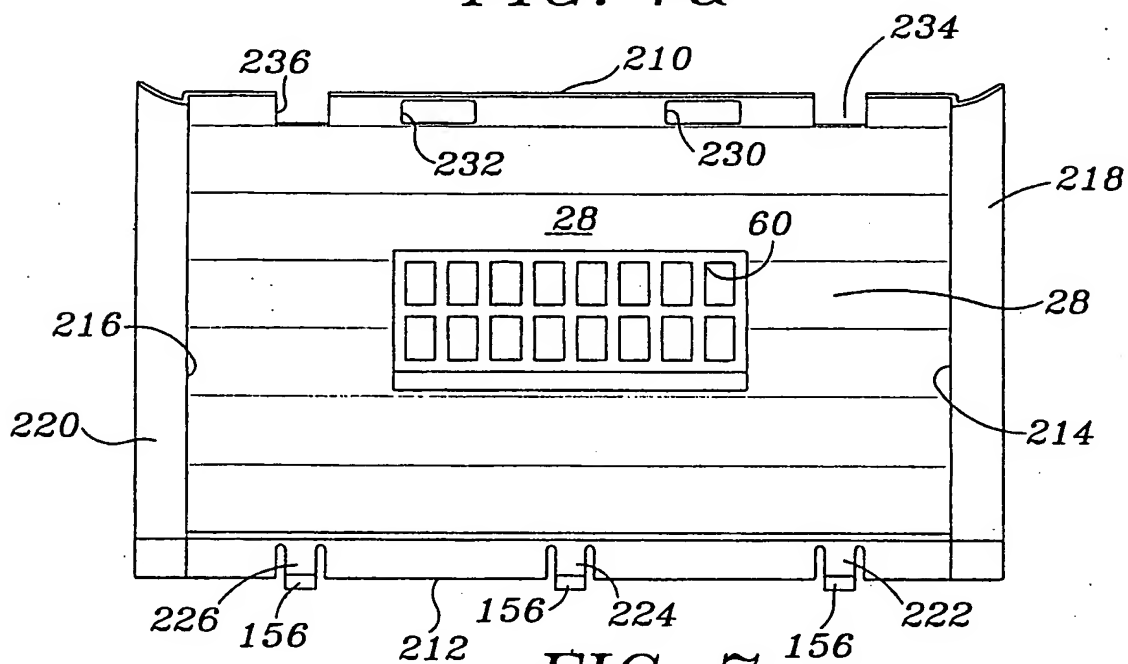


FIG. 7

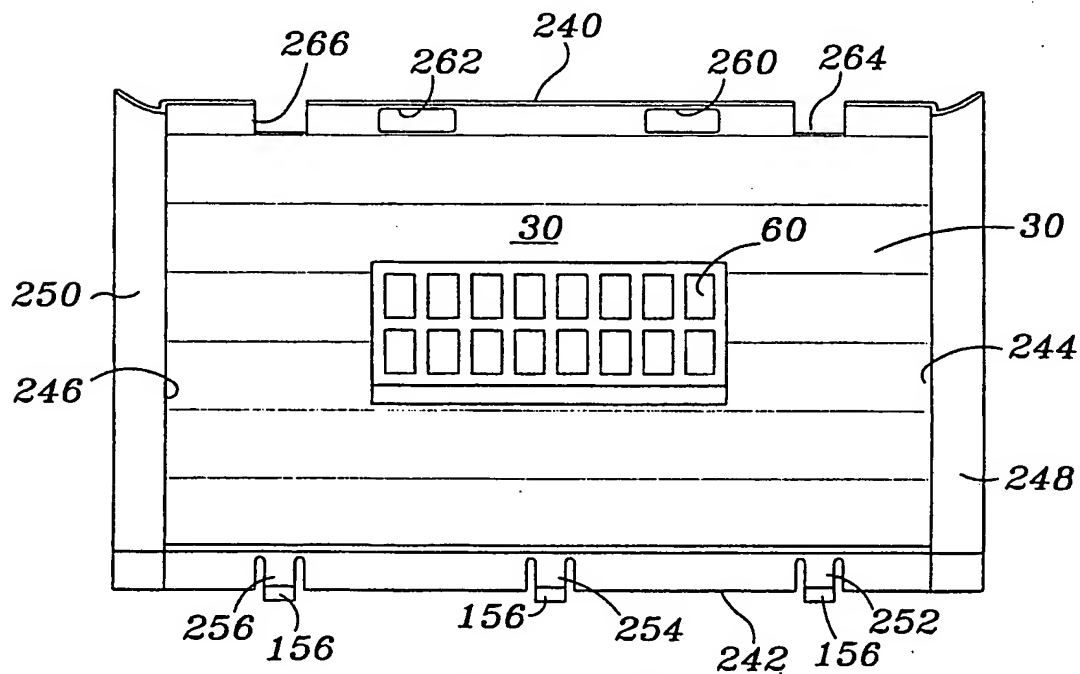


FIG. 8

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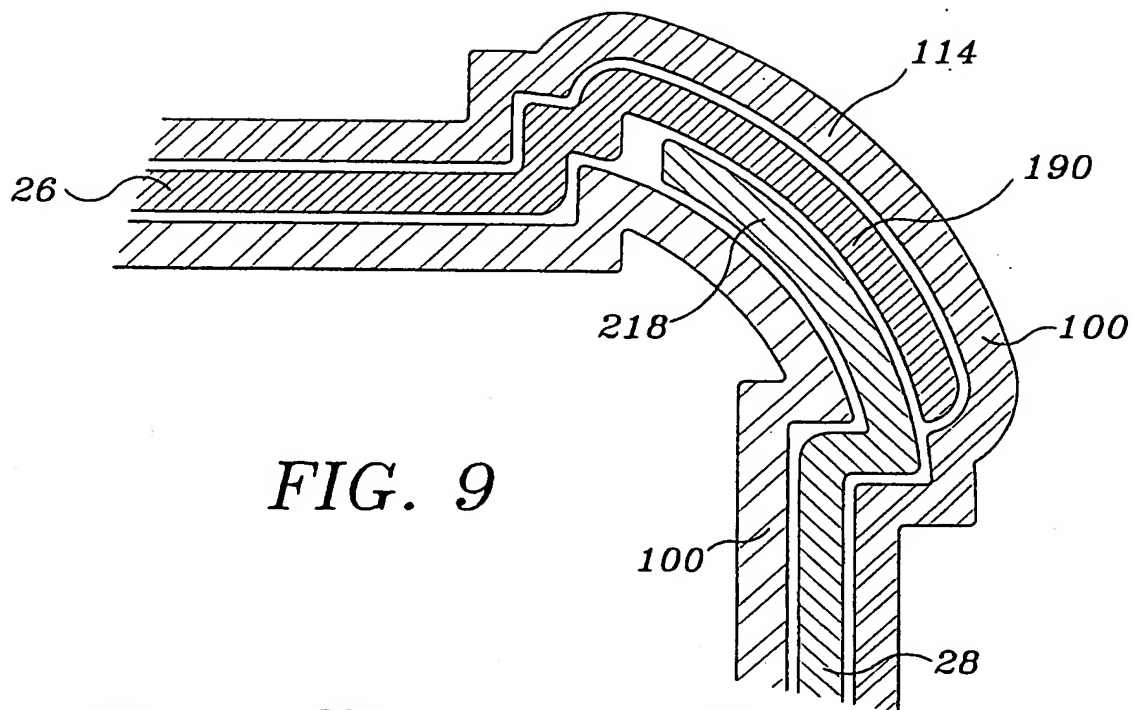


FIG. 9

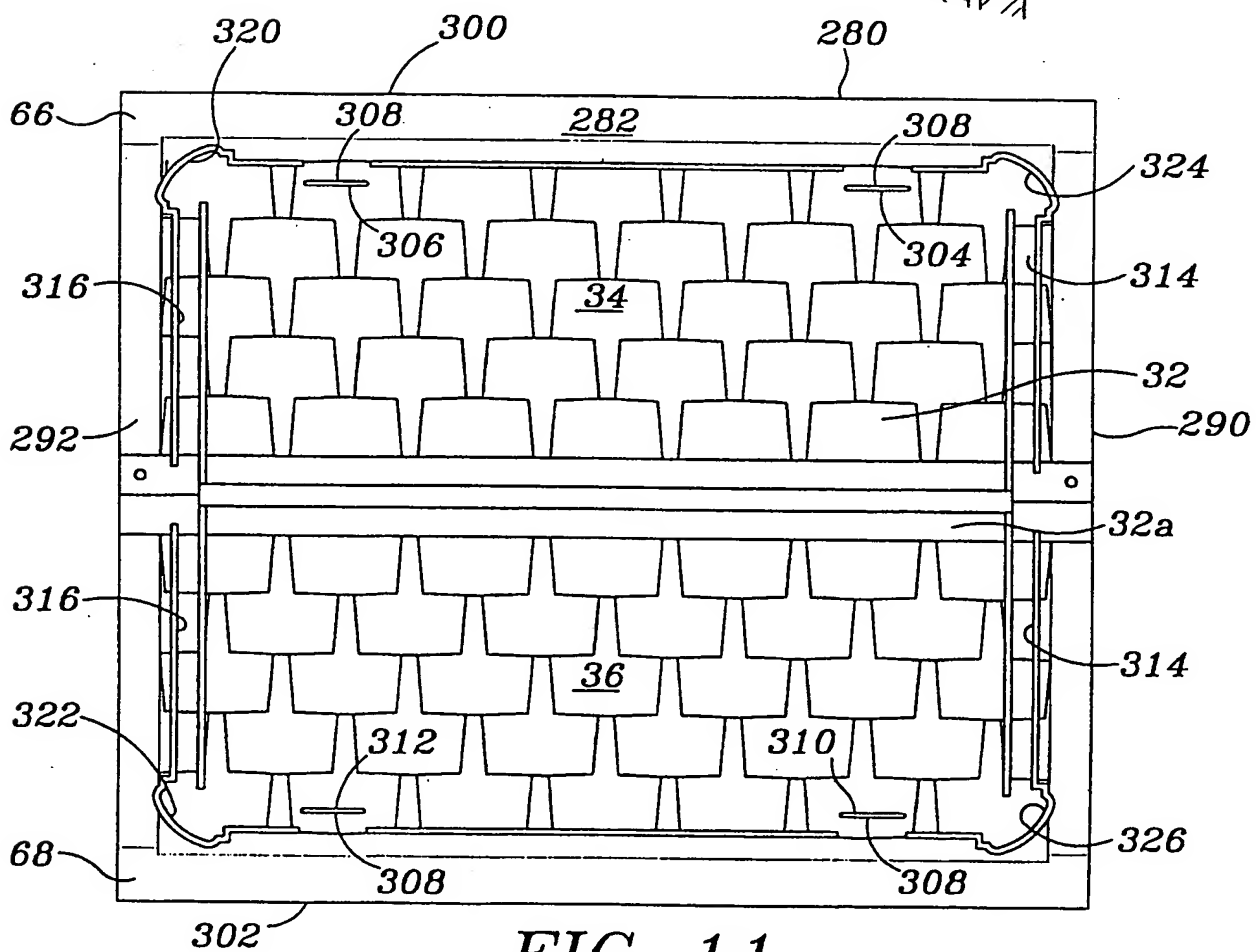


FIG. 11

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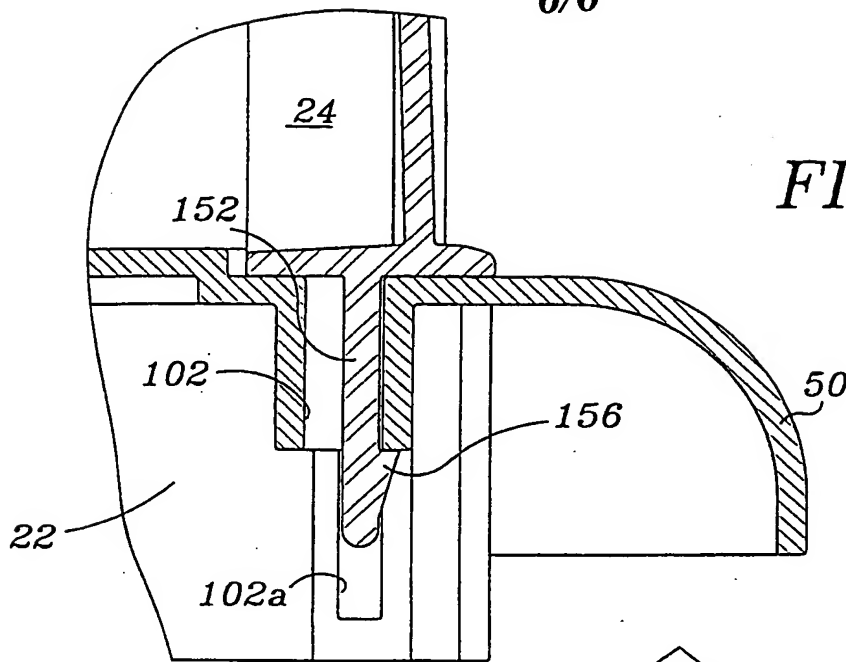


FIG. 10

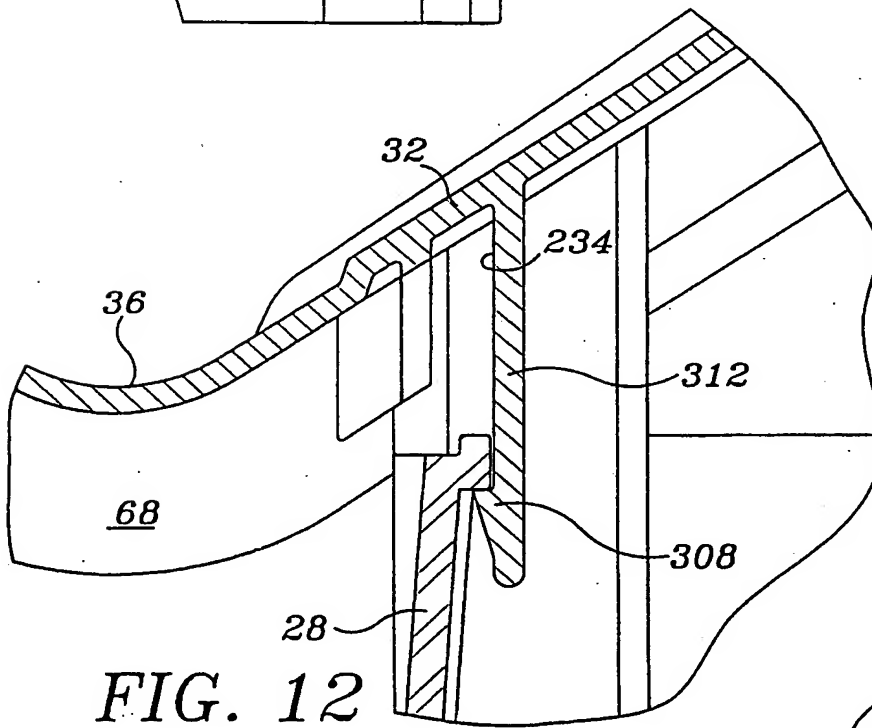


FIG. 12

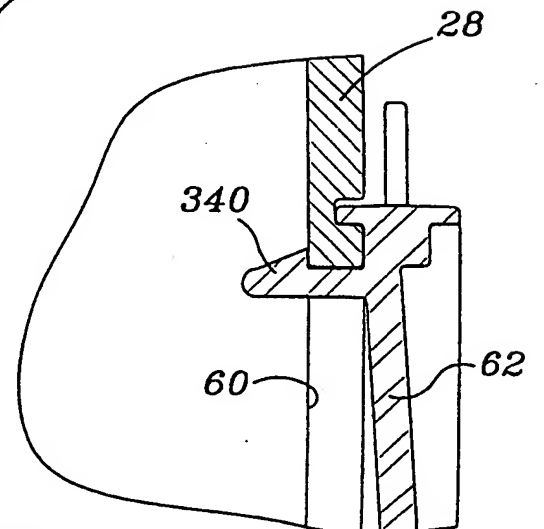


FIG. 13

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/04797

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A01K1/03 A01K1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A01K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	US 4 590 885 A (SUGIURA MASAMI) 27 May 1986 see figures 1-6	1,2, 10-15 3-9, 16-47
X A	DE 32 12 750 A (KÄRCHER JOACHIM) 13 October 1983 see figures and the abstract	1,2, 10-15 3-9, 16-47
A	FR 2 660 686 A (PREFABRICATION STE ROSTRENOISE) 11 October 1991 see the whole document	1-47
A	FR 2 578 714 A (DANO YWAN) 19 September 1986 see the whole document	1-47

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 June 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/07/1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/04797

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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